Box-Squaring Fixture

Holding panels square and flush with each other during assembly while attempting to predrill or screw isn't always easy. This simple fixture will give you that extra hand needed to get started with case assembly.

STEP ONE For each clamping jig, cut an 8" (203mm) x 8" (203mm) x ½" (13mm) piece of Baltic birch plywood. Adjust your miter saw to 45° and cut a triangle. It is well worth it to make several of these jigs.

STEP TWO For each clamping jig, cut two 1"-wide (25mm) strips to build up the sides. Glue the strips to the triangle and fasten them with brad nails or 1" (25mm) screws.

STEP THREE Add a layer of 1½"-wide (38mm) strips to create a ½" (13mm) lip on the outside of the jig. Drill a pilot hole with a countersink and secure with 1¼" (32mm) screws.

STEP FOUR To use the jig, bring together two project panels to make a butt joint. Clamp the fixture over one side of the panel, then make a butt joint to the other panel at 90°. Make them flush on the ends and the top.